

II. Listing of Claims

1-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently amended) The steering column assembly of claim ~~[[11]]~~ 30, wherein the internal and external ribs of the sleeve are generally aligned with a longitudinal axis of the sleeve, ~~and at least one of the internal ribs of the sleeve is offset relative to at least one of the external ribs of the sleeve.~~

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently amended) The steering column assembly of claim ~~[[11]]~~ 30, further comprising a bonding agent located between the sleeve and the outer jacket.

15. (Currently amended) The steering column assembly of claim ~~[[11]]~~ 30, wherein a width dimension of an internal rib of the sleeve is greater than a width dimension of an external rib of the sleeve.

16. (Currently amended) The steering column assembly of claim ~~[[11]]~~ 30, wherein a combined thickness dimension of the wall of the sleeve, at least one internal rib, and at least one external rib is at least equal to a distance between the outer surface of the inner jacket and the inner surface of the outer jacket.

17. (Currently amended) The steering column assembly of claim ~~[[11]]~~ 30, wherein a segment of the sleeve extends past the distal end of the outer jacket.

18. (Currently amended) The steering column assembly of claim ~~[[11]]~~ 30, wherein the sleeve ~~is able to flex~~ flexes between the outer surface of the inner jacket and the inner surface of the outer jacket.

19. (Currently amended) The steering column assembly of claim ~~[[11]]~~ 30, wherein the outer jacket is fixed, the sleeve is secured to the outer jacket, and the inner jacket ~~is able to telescope~~ moves axially relative to the outer jacket and ~~the sleeve.~~

20. (Currently amended) The steering column assembly of claim ~~[[11]]~~ 30, wherein the inner jacket is fixed, the sleeve is secured to the outer jacket, and the outer jacket and sleeve ~~are able to telescope~~ move axially relative to the inner jacket.

21-29. (Cancelled)

30. (Currently amended) A telescoping jacket assembly for use in ~~combination with~~ a telescoping steering column, the telescoping jacket assembly comprising:

an outer jacket defining a generally-cylindrical inner surface;

an inner jacket telescopically received within the outer jacket, the inner jacket defining a generally-cylindrical outer surface in opposition with the inner surface of the outer jacket; and

a flexible sleeve located including a generally-cylindrical wall disposed between the inner surface of the outer jacket and the outer surface of the inner jackets jacket, ~~the sleeve having a wall which is parallel and co-axial with the outer jacket and the inner jacket, and at least two~~

wherein the sleeve includes a plurality of internal ribs which protrude protruding from an interior of the wall and to define internal contact surfaces on the sleeve in engagement with contact on the outer surface of the inner jacket and which do not extend through the outer surface of the inner jacket to thereby radially space the wall from the outer surface of the inner jacket and allow telescoping movement of the inner jacket relative to the sleeve and in contact with the at least two internal ribs of the sleeve,

~~and at least two~~ wherein the sleeve includes a plurality of first and second external ribs which protrude protruding from an exterior of the wall and contact to define external contact surfaces on the sleeve in engagement with an the inner surface of the outer jacket to thereby space the wall of the sleeve from the outer jacket, and each of the first plurality of external ribs being circumferentially aligned with a respective internal rib, each of the second plurality of external ribs being circumferentially offset completely from each immediately proximate internal rib.

31. (New) The telescoping jacket assembly of claim 30, further including a third external rib partially circumferentially overlapping one of the internal ribs.